

# The Brethren Evangelist,

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## Editorial.

### PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS.

In the thousands of our churches all over the land, preparations are being made for appropriate Christmas services. The children are taught to sing songs and recite "pieces" suitable for the occasion. The influence of these services, especially upon the young, cannot be estimated. But if these Christmas "entertainments" are to accomplish that for which they are designed, great care must be exercised in their management, especially so in the selection of the words the children are taught to sing, and the "pieces" they are to recite. The one great object of these services, is to direct the thoughts of the children to Christ, and therefore the service should be full of Christ. Jesus, the Saviour of the world, the friend of humanity, the Son of God, the one who so gently dealt with the little ones, He should be the foremost person and character in every Christmas entertainment.

A Christmas service that does not turn the hearts of the little ones to Jesus, must in every case, be a failure, no matter how *entertaining* the service may be. Let all the selections be such that will impress the children with all that the birth of Jesus meant to a dying world. There is enough in the story of Jesus' coming into the world to hold the attention of any audience, whether composed of men and women, boys and girls, or children. Take the simple story, for example, as told by St. Luke, the Gospel for children. Year after year, an entire service can be based on this narrative—it never grows old, there is always something new and fresh about it, that entertains and instructs the little ones. Do not lose sight of the great—the *one* purpose of a Christmas service: The meaning of the child Jesus born into a world of sin. In some churches the object would seem to be to see how far away from Jesus they can get and yet call it a Christmas service. Indeed if one were to drop in to hear the music and recitations, he could scarcely tell whether it was

meant for a Christmas service or an ordinary secular entertainment. In too many cases "Santa Claus," plays a much bigger part than Jesus, and one would conclude that "Santa Claus," was the children's best friend and Saviour instead of King Jesus.

Then again, do not neglect to impress the great lesson that Christmas should teach us all—that of *giving*. Let the children understand that receiving presents or getting a Christmas gift or treat, is not the thought that should occupy their minds. But that on this day, God gave the greatest of all gifts to the world, and that it is the highest honor to be able to give something for God's poor, or to make known the Jesus who came to save us.

### TO OUR SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

This week we send you an order blank for Sunday-school supplies for the first quarter of 1896. There is practically no change in our literature for this quarter. The demand for the literature, from January 1, to April 1, is so small that any change involving extra expense would not be justified. It is perhaps not generally known that nearly one-half of our schools close during the months from January to April, and those that keep open, as a rule, order less literature, than in the summer, we presume, because of the smaller attendance. From July to October of this year—the third quarter—we sold *twice* as much literature as we sold from January to April of the same year. For the second quarter, beginning with April 1896, we have in view some very important changes, which we believe will make our literature second to none in the land: We trust our patrons will stand by us and give us their financial aid that we may be able to make these changes.

We would like, if possible, to get more of our schools, take our papers, especially *Cheering Words*. This is a very desirable weekly Sunday-school paper, and certainly very cheap, only 25 cents per year, 7 cents per quarter. The paper will be greatly improved in many ways, beginning with next quarter. We urge upon all our schools to send us as large orders as their finances allow.

Permit us to say this: If at all possible send us cash with order. Just as soon as we can get on a cash basis, we will be able to reduce the price of our literature. When once started it will be just as easy for any school to pay cash as to wait three months, for your literature should

be paid, not less than once every quarter, and from the beginning of a quarter to the beginning of the next is not any longer than from the end of one quarter to the end of the next, both being three months. Send in your orders, and we will see that you get your quarterlies in good time for the New year. The lessons are taken from the Gospel of St. Luke and are exceedingly interesting.

### THE ALMANAC.

The Almanac or Church Year Book is underway and will be pushed out just as rapidly as possible. It was a long while before we ventured the expense involved in getting plates for such an Almanac, and this accounts for the book being late. It is our purpose to make this a permanent publication and improve it as the years go by. We are quite anxious to have every family in the brotherhood have one of these books, knowing as we do that it will give entire satisfaction. Every family will want an almanac, why not purchase this one? It is as good as the best, and besides it is your own publication.

We are printing but a limited number of these books, and it will be well for you to send in your orders at once. We hope our people will patronize this publication as it is much needed. Will pastors please announce the publication of this book, from their pulpits, and urge their people to purchase it. Orders are already coming in. One pastor has ordered two dozen copies. These orders are carefully filed, and when the book is ready will be filled in the order in which they came in.

WHY not send the EVANGELIST to some friend for a Christmas present? If you want your friend to remember you, this will remind the receiver, of the donor every week in the year.

The Glade Run church had communion services Nov. 23, at which time brother S. H. Buzzard was ordained to the Christian ministry.

Brother C. Forney baptized two more Sunday evening, Nov. 24. He is now engaged in revival work, with good interest.

Brother J. O. Talley reports church work moving along nicely. Baptized two some time ago—leading members from the M. E. church.

It is with the finest characters as it is with the finest woods and marbles; the polishing hand is still needed to bring out the veins of beauty and of grace.